

Message Text

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62

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ADP-00 COME-00 TRSE-00 TAR-02 OMB-01

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 RSR-01 L-03 /046 W

----- 049135

R 242147Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4908

INFO AMEMBASSY PANAMA

UNCLAS SAN JOSE 3018

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, BCOM, CS

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR CUSTOM TARIFFS ON CABINETS

1. GABINETES CENTROAMERICANOS S.A., A COSTA RICAN WHOLLY OWNED SUBSIDIARY OF PAIKARD ZONA LIBRE, S.A., CALLE 13, ZONA LIBRE DE COLON, REPUBLICA DE PANAMA PRODUCES A VARIETY OF CABINETS FROM PARTICLE BOARD WHICH ARE USED IN THE ENTERTAINMENT FIELD (HI-FI, T.V., ETC.) AND SOLD LARGELY IN THE U.S.

2. HERETOFOR, BAGINETES HAS BEEN IMPORTING ANNUALLY APPROXIMATELY 10 MILLION BOARD FEET (APPROX. 330,000 SHEETS) OF PARTICLE BOARD CLASS I FROM GUATEMALA AT MORE THAN \$700,000. THE FIRM ESTIMATES ITS REQUIREMENTS FOR THE NEXT YEAR AT APPROXIMATELY \$800,000. A RECENT 20 PERCENT PRICE INCREASED BY THE GUATEMALAN SUPPLIER HAS MADE U.S. PRODUCED PARTICLE BOARD MORE COMPETITIVE IN PRICE BUT CIF IS STILL ABOUT 1 PERCENT HIGHER.

3. GABINETES PREFERS U.S. PRODUCED PARTICLE BOARD BECAUSE OF ITS CONSISTENT QUALITY AND BELIEVES THIS QUALITY IS REFLECTED IN ITS OWN FINISHED PRODUCTS. AS A CONSIDERATION IN THE ULTIMATE DELIVERY COST OF THE FINISHED PRODUCTS, THE COMPANY HAS ASKED IF A PREFERENTIAL U.S. TARIFF, BASED ON THE FACT THAT THESE CABINETS ARE MADE WITH 100 PERCENT U.S. ORIGIN RAW

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MATERIALS (INCLUDING CEMENTS, VENEERS, ETC.) CURRENTLY

EXIST, IF NOT WHAT ARE THE PROSPECTS FOR REDUCED U.S.
CUSTOM DUTIES APPLICABLE TO THE PRODUCTS OF THIS TYPE
OF "DRAW-BACK" INDUSTRY?
VAKY

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NNN

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